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PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH
DE RUEHKO #2615 2670240
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 230240Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7411
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 9977
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 2337
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 8081
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 0553
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 3720
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5449
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2534
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 1445
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1743
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UNCLAS TOKYO 002615

SIPDIS

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EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - RUSSIA

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Most Tuesday morning papers led with the election of Taro Aso as LDP president, while Asahi and Nikkei gave top play to the decision by the Mitsubishi-UFJ Group to acquire a stake in Morgan Stanley.

¶2. "Russia Eager to Display Military Prowess" A Moscow correspondent for the liberal Asahi wrote (9/23): "Following the row with the U.S. and Europe over the Georgia crisis, Russia is moving to demonstrate its military capabilities. On top of its recent dispatch of a Northern Fleet flotilla to Venezuela, Russia has started a major military exercise with Belarus. Russia is ramping up its military spending and undertaking a rapid review of major defense hardware. The Georgia dispute appears to have given new momentum to Moscow's desire to restore its military power."

SCHIEFFER